

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: RBRVS Users
Managed Care Plans
CSO Administrators
Regional Administrators

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From: Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration

Subject: Group Clinical Visits for Clients with Diabetes and Asthma

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2002, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will implement a group clinical visits program for clients with diabetes or asthma. All policies and reimbursement methodologies are described in this memorandum.

Overview of the Program

The intent of the diabetes and asthma group clinical visits program is to provide clinical services and educational counseling to MAA clients who have been diagnosed with diabetes or asthma. These visits are limited to groups of two or more clients, and are payable only to physicians or advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs). However, participation from other professional staff, including physician assistants, physical therapists, nurses, nutritionists, etc., is encouraged.

Program Requirements

- Prior to a group clinical visit, the provider must perform an assessment of individual patient medical information and document the proposed treatment plan for each client.
- The group clinical visit must be led by a physician or ARNP, but may include other staff as well.

- The group clinical visit must last at least one hour and include:
 - ✓ A group discussion on clinical issues to promote long-term disease control and self-management. This discussion should include at least one of the following topics:
 - Prevention of exacerbation or complications;
 - Proper use of medications and other therapeutic techniques (spacers, peak flow meter use; glucose measurement, foot care, eye exams, etc.); or
 - Living with a chronic illness;
 - ✓ A questions and answers period;
 - ✓ The collection of prevention-based care data needed to monitor chronic illness (e.g., weight and blood pressure); and
 - ✓ Short (approximately 5-10 minutes per client) one-on-one visits to gather needed data and establish an individual management plan with the client.
- The following must be documented in the medical record:
 - ✓ Individual management plan including self-management capacity;
 - ✓ Data collected including physical exam and lab findings;
 - ✓ Patient participation; and
 - ✓ Beginning and ending time of the visit.

Billing and Reimbursement

Providers must use the following Current Procedural Terminology (CPT™) procedure code when billing for diabetes or asthma group counseling visits, and are subject to the limitations in the chart below. Providers must bill visits in increments of one-hour units (one hour = one unit). Multiple units may be billed on the same day.

CPT Code	Maximum Allowable Fee	Restricted to Diagnoses:	Visit Limitations:
99078	\$27.86 Non-facility Setting \$19.57 Facility Setting	Diabetes: 250.00 – 250.93 Asthma: 493.00 – 493.92	Limited to four (4) one-hour units per calendar year, per client, per condition



Note: MAA only reimburses for time that a client spends in the group clinical visit.

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Other Limitations:

- MAA does not reimburse a diabetes or asthma group clinical visit in conjunction with an office visit or other outpatient evaluation and management (E&M) code for the same client, same provider, and same condition on the same day.
- A diabetes group clinical visit may be billed on the same day as a Department of Health (DOH) -approved diabetes education core module as long as the times documented in the medical record indicate two separate sessions.

Bill MAA your usual and customary charge. To obtain this memorandum electronically, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link).